

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN OPPOSITION TO THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I am sad to rise today in opposition to H.R. 4970, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2012.

VAWA has never been a partisan issue until this Congress, and I am disappointed that the safety of women in this country is now a political game to those in charge.

Mr. Speaker, I am a brother, a father and a grandfather.

I want to be a part of a country that believes in protecting and preventing violence towards all people, especially our most vulnerable.

When women and girls feel threatened or are at risk of experiencing violence, it interferes with their ability to pursue an education, employment, or community involvement.

For this reason, I have been a strong supporter of past Violence Against Women bills.

The Violence Against Women Act has been an essential tool in helping to protect victims of domestic and sexual violence and to allow women and girls to pursue the American dream.

First passed in 1994 and reauthorized in 2000 and 2005, VAWA has successfully strengthened enforcement of state and federal anti-violence laws and underwritten effective prevention and victim support programs.

Since VAWA was first signed into law, annual incidents of domestic violence have dropped by more than 60 percent.

It has been one of the best tools law enforcement, prosecutors, and community service providers have to help protect and support women who have experienced gender violence. The law also streamlines these community programs, saving states and the federal government billions of dollars.

Unfortunately, the version of the bill before us today reverses many of the modest protections in the original bill.

Even worse, this bill goes a step further and outright excludes vulnerable populations such as Native American women, non-citizen women, and LGBT individuals.

Tragically, H.R. 4970 subjects many women to even greater risks of violence and makes it even harder for them to receive the services and programs that should be readily available to them.

Once again, House Republicans are choosing confrontation over compromise.

This Republican bill is opposed by hundreds of groups including law enforcement, civil rights, and faith-based groups and many, many, many of my constituents.

I want only the best for the women in my family and for all of the women in this country.

This bill falls far, far short of the mark.

It does not deserve to be called the "Violence Against Women Act" because it fails to protect the people it claims to serve.

I will be voting against this bill and I urge my colleagues to support all women and reject this terrible legislation.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRESIDENT MA YING-JEU ON THE OCCA- SION OF HIS INAUGURATION

HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to extend warm congratulations and best wishes to President Ma Ying-jeou for his inauguration on the occasion of the Republic of China's Centennial National Day. This national holiday commemorates the 1911 Wu-ch'ang uprising that ended centuries of monarch rule and led to the birth of the Republic of China (Taiwan).

Taiwan and the United States enjoy an important relationship that reflects our two countries' historical, cultural, and economic ties over the last century. While there is no formal relationship between the two countries, the United States and Taiwan continue to be strong partners in trade, cultural and educational exchanges, as well as cooperation in many other areas. In the last three and a half years, the relationship between the United States and Taiwan has grown even stronger. Taiwan's cooperation with the United States in combating global terrorism has earned the trust of the American people and improved our exchanges and enhanced the friendship between our two nations. These relations also include discussions about Taiwan's military needs. A strong Taipei-Washington relationship is in the best interests of both and the stability of East Asia. Last year, we celebrated the 31st anniversary of the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act, the cornerstone of the U.S.-Taiwan relations.

Recently, there has been good news about Taiwan's rapprochement with mainland China. Taiwan has concluded 16 agreements with mainland China and each one is based on the principles of parity, dignity, and reciprocity and ensures that Taiwan comes first for the benefit of its people. I sincerely hope that Taiwan and China will continue to work together and cultivate a future based on respect, democracy, and freedom. Again, congratulations to President Ma Ying-jeou on his second inauguration.

IN HONOR OF THE FAMILIES OF THE ARMED SERVICES

HON. PETE SESSIONS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2012

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Albert "Bert" Caswell and the men, women, and families of our Nation's Armed Services.

Bert has worked as a United States Capitol tour guide for over twenty-five years. He is known throughout the Capitol for his extraordinary work and selfless attitude. After hours, Bert volunteers his time offering Capitol tours to wounded veterans and participants of the Make-A-Wish foundation. He also visits and writes poems for wounded soldiers at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center to lift their spirits and celebrate their heroic nature.

Mr. Speaker, I submit to you a poem, on behalf of Albert, who penned this tribute in recognition of the extraordinary sacrifices and courage of the men, women, and families of our Nation's Armed Services.

THEY MAKE US WHO WE ARE

(By Albert Caswell)

They

They make us who we are!

For they are the greatest of all shining stars!

As they so make us who we are!

Our loved ones and families

The ones for whom we all so die and bleed!

Yes, they make us who we are!

As we go off to war, we carry them with us
ever far!

The ones who so live with such heartache
and pain

And such worry, wondering if they shall ever
so see us all again

Oh yes, they make us who we are!

Quiet Heroes, out across our heartland one
and all!

The ones now on bended knee, so pray to
Lord to watch over us all so godspeed!

They make us who we are!

The ones who at our grave sides, with tears
in eyes whose hearts now so bleed!

Who have lost their greatest loves of all!

The ones who never had the chance to so say
goodbye!

The ones for whom our Lord's love shall
never die!

As they so make us who we are!

The ones who now at our bedsides who have
so traveled so very far

As we come home from war, half dead and so
full of scars

Carried, now upon us all!

Missing arms and legs in all places, as some-
how they must face this!

For all of them it is so very hard!

As they so help us to beat down death, and
so face so all of this!

As they bless, because they are all in it for
the long haul!

Oh how they so make us who we are!

Providing us with the hope and courage, and
not letting us so get discouraged!

Where, would we and our nation all so be?

If it were but not for such all of these, who
so make us who we are?

Yes, all of our loved ones and families
who all in us do so believe!

And so make us who we are!

Shining ever so brightly, our nation's most
courageous of all stars!

All with such dignity and faith, as they shine
from sea to sea!

As one day up in heaven, they will all so be!
For these are the ones, who have so sent!

So sent, all of their most beloved daughters
and sons off to war!

Husbands and Wives, who live with such deep
pain so deep down inside!

And all our children who so lie awake at
night, and so begin to cry!

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.